



Dateline ERS

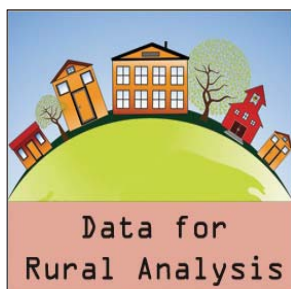
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Economic Research Service

July/August 2010

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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July/August

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- Oil Crops
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Vegetables and Melons
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry

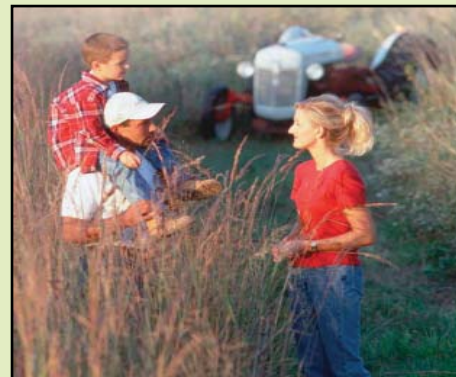
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Family-run Farms Account for Most Agricultural Production

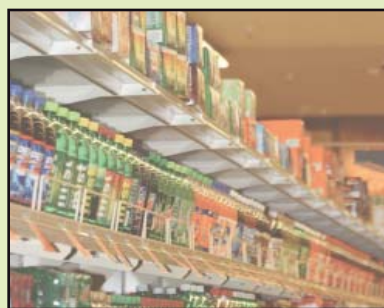
www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB66/

Most U.S. farms—98 percent in 2007—are family operations, and even the largest farms are predominantly family run. The **Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms: Family Farm Report, 2010 Edition** reports that large-scale family farms and nonfamily farms account for 12 percent of U.S. farms but 84 percent of the value of production. In contrast, small family farms make up most of the U.S. farm count but produce a modest share of farm output. Small farms are less profitable than large-scale farms, on average, and their operator households tend to rely on off-farm income for their livelihood. Generally speaking, farm operated households cannot be characterized as low-income when both farm and off-farm income are considered. A companion brochure, *America's Diverse Family Farms: 2010 Edition* is available at www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/eib67/.



A Tax on Sweetened Beverages Could Reduce Calorie Intake

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR100/



The link between high U.S. obesity rates and the overconsumption of added sugars, largely from sodas and fruit drinks, has prompted public calls for a tax on caloric sweetened beverages. Faced with such a tax, consumers may reduce consumption of these sweetened beverages and substitute nontaxed beverages, such as bottled water, juice, and milk. The report **Taxing Caloric Sweetened Beverages: Potential Effects on Beverage Consumption, Calorie Intake,**

and Obesity estimated that a tax-induced 20-percent price increase on caloric sweetened beverages could cause an average reduction of 37 calories per day, or 3.8 pounds of body weight over a year for adults, and an average of 43 calories per day, or 4.5 pounds over a year for children. Given these reductions in calorie consumption, results show an estimated decline in adult overweight prevalence (66.9 to 62.4 percent) and obesity prevalence (33.4 to 30.4 percent), as well as the child at-risk-for-overweight prevalence (32.3 to 27.0 percent) and overweight prevalence (16.6 to 13.7 percent). Actual impacts would depend on how the tax is reflected in consumer prices and the competitive strategies of beverage manufacturers and food retailers.

Data Set

Adoption of Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S.

U.S. farmers have adopted genetically engineered (GE) crops widely since their introduction in 1996, notwithstanding uncertainty about consumer acceptance and economic and environmental impacts. Soybeans and cotton genetically engineered with herbicide-tolerant traits have been the most widely and rapidly adopted GE crops in the U.S., followed by insect-resistant cotton and corn. This data product summarizes the extent of adoption of herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant crops since their introduction in 1996. Three tables devoted to corn, cotton, and soybeans cover the 2000-10 period by State.

Read more at www.ers.usda.gov/Data/BiotechCrops/



Food Security Assessment, 2010-20

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/GFA21/

Food security in 70 developing countries is estimated to have improved between 2009 and 2010, in part due to economic recovery in many of these countries. The number of food-insecure people in the developing countries analyzed by ERS researchers is estimated to decrease about 7.5 percent from 2009 to 882 million in 2010. The number of food-insecure people at the aggregate level will not improve much over the next decade, declining by only 1 percent. While there will be notable improvements in Asia and Latin America, the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to deteriorate after 2010. Food-insecure people are defined as those consuming less than the nutritional target of 2,100 calories per day per person.

Long-Term Growth in U.S. Cheese Consumption May Slow

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/LDP/2010/07Jul/LDPM19301/

Cheese production and markets have emerged as important elements of the dairy industry over the past three decades. Supply-and-use analysis shows an upward trend in total cheese consumption over this period. Nielsen 2005 retail Homescan data were used to analyze cheese consumption by location as well as by income, age, and racial/ethnic groups. Own-price and expenditure demand elasticities were also calculated using the Nielsen data. To the extent that increases in consumers' food expenditure translate into more cheese purchases, it is expected that total cheese consumption will continue to rise. However, changes in the demographic profile of the U.S. population may somewhat slow future growth.

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